

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7263

UNCLAS CAIRO 10408

FROM AMCONGEN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EG

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA PORT CONGESTION

REF CAIRO 8358

1. SINCE LAST STATUS REPORT (REFTEL) ALEXANDRIA PORT CONGESTION REMAINS NEAR "DANGER LEVEL" OF ABOUT TWENTY VESSELS WAITING AT ANCHOR OUTSIDE ON OCTOBER 15.

2. IN CONVERSATION PREVIOUS DAY, GOVERNOR HODEIB (WHO CHAIRS HIGH LEVEL GOE COMMITTEE NAMED BY PRESIDENT SADAT LAST YEAR TO OVERSEE PORT OPERATIONS AND ELIMINATE CONGESTION) BLAMED MUCH OF PRESENT LESS THAN SATISFACTORY SITUATION TO INESCAPABLE SLACKENING OF LONGSHOREMEN DURING MONTH LONG RAMADAN FAST (SEPT 6 TO OCT 5). NEVERTHELESS, UNLESS EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT MADE TO CLEAR PRESENT BACKLOG IN NEXT FOUR TO SIX WEEKS, ONCOMING WINTER STORMS WILL FURTHER COMPLICATE SITUATION.

3. UNLIKE REFTTEL REPORT EIGHT WEEKS AGO, CARGO CLUTTER ON DOCKS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND AGAIN AND WOULD APPEAR TO SLOW DOWN HANDLING OF ARRIVING MATERIALS. BY FAR WORST OFFENDERS NOW ARE AUTOMOTIVE IMPORTS, INCLUDING
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SIZABLE NUMBER HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS AND TRAILERS. ALL THIS

WHEELED EQUIPMENT TAKES MUCH GROUND SPACE, OFTEN NARROWING
VITAL ACCESS ROADS NEEDED TO MOVE OTHER GOODS. OVERFLOW
SO BAD VEHICLES ARE NOW PARKED OUT ONTO SIDEWALKS OF
ELEVATED HIGHWAY WHICH IS MAIN ENTRY TO PORT.

4. COMMENT - CONGEN EXPERIENCE RECENTLY WITH USG AND
PERSONAL SHIPMENTS SUGGESTS PART OF DOCK CONGESTION
PROBLEM LIES IN ANTIQUATED, TIME-CONSUMING PAPERWORK AS
REGARDS BILLS OF LADING AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE. RECENT
AID-CONTRACTED PORT SURVEY BY ERNEST BALL OF FREDERICK
HARRIS COMPANY DID NOT RPT NOT DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM
EXCEPT IN PASSING MENTION. IT OCCURS TO US AID MIGHT
USEFULLY OFFER SIMILAR SURVEY AND REPORT BY HIGHLY
QUALIFIED US EXPERT IN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION TO SEEK
MODERNIZATION AND STREAMLINING OF THIS FUNCTION. SIGNED
CHASE.
EILTS

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